

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 11, 17, 22-28, 30-41, 43 and 45 are active in the present application.

Claims 2-10, 12-16, 18-21, 29, 42 and 44 are canceled claims. Independent Claims 1 and 23 are amended to recite the average particle diameters recited in previously pending Claims 42 and 44, respectively.

No new matter is added.

REMARKS

Applicants thank Examiner Mercier for indicating that the subject matter of Claims 42-45 is not rejected over the cited art. Independent Claims 1 and 23 are amended herein to recite an average particle diameter range of from 1 to less than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ . Independent Claims 1 and 23 therefore include the limitations of Claims 42 and 44 which were not rejected over cited art.

Applicants submit concurrently herewith a Terminal Disclaimer over co-pending application 10/137,405. Applicants further submit an English translation of the priority document in the present application.

At the time the presently claimed invention was made, the subject matter of the present application and the subject matter claimed in co-pending 10/137,405 was commonly owned by Kao Corporation.

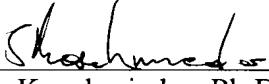
Applicants submit that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of all now-pending claims.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicants draw the Office's attention to the IDS filed on October 16, 2008. The October 16, 2008 IDS includes an European Search Report and lists one or more references cited therein. Applicants request the Office provide a signed and dated copy of the October 16, 2008 IDS indicating the Examiner's consideration of such references during the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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